



**CANCER CENTER, THE FIGHT AGAINST “ICE,”
NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH & EDUCATION INITIATIVES
SUPPORTED BY KEY SENATE PANEL**

**\$229 Million Approved for Numerous Hawaii-Related
Commerce, Justice, Health, and Education Programs**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye announced today that Hawaii stands to receive nearly \$229 million for a wide range of programs that include support for the University of Hawaii’s new planned Cancer Center, fighting the war against crystal methamphetamine, and promoting Native Hawaiian health and education initiatives.

The funding for the Hawaii-related programs are in the Fiscal Year 2005 appropriations bills for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, and the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education that the Senate Appropriations Committee approved earlier today. The two measures now advance to the Senate for consideration.

“These programs provide vital services and exciting opportunities for the people of Hawaii,” said Senator Inouye, the third most senior member of the Senate. Funding for other important earmarked and formula-based programs under the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education will be determined later in conference with the House and Senate.

Here are several of the key initiatives approved today by the Senate Appropriations

Committee, followed by a listing of the other projects for each department that begins on page 4:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

University of Hawaii Cancer Center

\$10 million

“I am very pleased to announce an appropriation of \$10 million that will be used for the planning and design of the University of Hawaii’s new Cancer Center. The Center will combine cutting edge research of scientists and doctors with clinical treatment focused on culturally diverse patient bases. When added to the \$8.5 million already enacted into law for the UH Cancer Center’s new partnership with Tripler Army Medical Center, the total is \$18.5 million in federal support for this important investment in cancer research and clinical care for Hawaii,” Senator Inouye stated.

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Pacific Regional Facility

\$15 million

These funds will go toward the establishment of a NOAA Regional Facility in Hawaii. It will further strengthen NOAA's presence in Hawaii, bringing all of its 400 employees under one roof. While all of NOAA's line offices are currently represented in Hawaii, they are scattered among the islands in offices and buildings ranging in size from the one-man National Environmental and Satellite Data Information Service office, to the 160-man National Marine Fisheries Service Honolulu Lab. Having a consolidated NOAA facility in Hawaii will enhance intra-agency communication, create economies of scale by pooling resources, and provide more “one-stop shopping” for the public. With this appropriation, a total of about \$45 million has been set aside for what will likely be a \$250 million facility.

Humpback Whale Provision

“There is also a provision I included -- thanks to the fast and aggressive action of State Senator Roz Baker -- to provide Hawaii with the regulatory freedom to protect the humpback whales in State waters. A recent ruling by the Hawaii Federal District Court struck down a State law banning parasailing and other thrillcraft activities during the birthing period for the humpback whales. This provision Roz helped to craft ensures that the State of Hawaii will be able to protect the endangered whales that frequent its waters,” Inouye stated.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

“Approximately \$10 million has been set aside to continue the federal efforts to spearhead a comprehensive approach to curb the corrosive influence of crystal methamphetamine, or “ice,” in our communities,” said Senator Inouye. “We are stressing enforcement and prosecution, treatment and rehabilitation, and education and prevention. All three aspects are needed to fight this cancer,” Inouye stated.

Comprehensive Methamphetamine Program

\$6 million

This program started with an appropriation of \$4 million in FY 2003 to fund the Big Island’s comprehensive response to “ice.” In FY 2004, \$4.5 million was provided to continue to support the program on the Big Island, as well as expand to the Counties of Kauai and Maui. FY 2005 funding should see a tapering off of funding to the Big Island, with continuing support for the Counties of Kauai and Maui, and expansion to Oahu.

Hawaii Prevention & Outreach Program

\$3 million

These funds will be evenly divided between the Boys & Girls Clubs and the YMCA of Honolulu to expand their presence in rural or disadvantaged communities on Oahu and the Neighbor Islands. The goal of this new infusion of funds will be to insert infrastructure in these needy communities to support youth outreach activities, mentoring, and safe havens.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) Crime Lab

\$1 million

The HPD crime lab undertakes the collection of crime scene evidence, DNA analysis, drug analysis, firearms and tool marks, trace evidence, and latent print processing. Notwithstanding its present limitations, the HPD lab services all other county prosecutors, all State narcotics cases, the Naval Investigative Services, the Provost Marshal, the Air Force and Army Criminal Investigative Divisions, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Federal Aviation Administration, the U.S. Attorney, and the Central Identification Laboratory. HPD scientists also provide testimony in subsequent court-martial hearings and in federal court. This funding will be used to purchase equipment that will increase the productivity and capacities of the lab.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Native Hawaiian Health Care (Papa Ola Lokahi)

\$15 million

“It has been well established, unfortunately, that Native Hawaiians rank low on nearly all key standards that assess an individual’s health and well-being,” Senator Inouye said. “Programs like Papa Ola Lokahi continue to deliver health care service and health education to our State’s Native Hawaiian population.”

The funds enable Papa Ola Lokahi/Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems to continue their efforts to improve the health of Native Hawaiians by making available primary

care, health education, and disease prevention services. This initiative also supports the Native Hawaiian Health Professionals Scholarship Program, which strives to increase the number of Native Hawaiians in health care professions. The funds will also strengthen existing programs and further partnerships with federally qualified health centers, such as those in Waimanalo, Waianae, Hilo, Kauai, and Kalihi. This health care program was established in 1988 under the Native Hawaiian Healthcare Improvement Act.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Native Hawaiian Education

\$36 million

“Native Hawaiian educational programs have also been instrumental in improving education achievement of Hawaiian children at all levels – from preschool to medical school. We must continue our efforts and our encouragement,” Senator Inouye said.

These funds support curricula development for students at all levels, continue teacher training and recruitment programs, and provide scholarships to allow Native Hawaiian students to further their education. Funds also support the State Department of Education in the repair and renovation of public schools with high percentages of Native Hawaiians.

Impact Aid

\$46 million

Hawaii’s Impact Aid funding is part of a larger amount recommended by the Congress for Impact Aid programs nationwide. Impact Aid provides support to school districts with students who are dependents of members of the armed forces and federal government employees. Last year, Hawaii received \$40.6 million.

The following are other Hawaii-related projects earmarked for funding:

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Endangered and Threatened Sea Turtles

\$7.8 million

These funds will be used for the research and management of the endangered and threatened Pacific sea turtles. The Pacific Islands turtle recovery program works to continue the recovery efforts and mitigation of the effects of longline fisheries on Pacific sea turtles.

NOAA Ship Hiialakai

\$4.6 million

This appropriation will ensure adequate Operating and Maintenance funding is available for approximately 240 days at sea, a full field season, to support the research, mapping, monitoring, assessment, restoration and outreach needs of the National Ocean Service in waters around the Hawaiian Islands and the American flag territories. This vessel was recently commissioned for service in Hawaii on September 3, 2004.

Tsunami Hazard Mitigation

\$4.3 million

These funds will finish the implementation of recommendations from an important 5-year review made in 2002. Two recommendations from the review, in particular, deserve continued support because they serve national interests in addition to meeting the needs of the underserved Pacific island nations under the National Weather Service's jurisdiction: (1) developing tsunami evacuation maps and State/local level mitigation plans, and (2) expanding the number of buoys monitoring the Pacific Ocean from 10 to 16.

Hawaii Longline Observers Program

\$4 million

These funds will be used to (1) ensure Hawaii's basic 20% observer coverage is maintained, (2) provide for the likely 100% observer coverage level that will be required under any re-opening of the swordfish fishery, and (3) continue and expand the Native Hawaiian Observer Program, which was established by National Marine Fisheries Service to enhance community outreach and involvement in fishery management and enforcement issues.

Hawaii Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program

\$3 million

These funds will be used to aid in the preservation of high conservation value lands in coastal Hawaii.

Pelagic Fisheries Research Program (PFRP)

\$2.5 million

The PFRP is a wide-ranging primary and applied research program funded by a grant to the Joint Institute on Marine and Atmospheric Research (JIMAR). It supports the study of basic life history and biology of a number of target and incidental catch pelagic species important to Hawaii. In addition to basic and applied scientific research, the PFRP is now expanding into a broad range of socio-economic studies that provide basic information on the conduct of commercial and recreational fisheries in Hawaii, their relationship to the broader market structure and society, and economic models of fishery operations. By expanding its scope from basic and applied fisheries research to include socio-economic studies, the PFRP is now positioned to link research results to real-world applications.

Pacific Services Center (PSC)

\$2.25 million

These funds are necessary to continue the PSC's efforts to appropriately meet the needs of its partners and clients. The PSC is filling a void in the Western Pacific by playing an essential role in ensuring that NOAA is meeting the needs of the coastal communities. In order to meet these needs, the PSC develops its priorities through close and intensive dialog at the State and local levels, thus ensuring relevance and long-term sustainability to its clients. The PSC continues to improve the products and services it provides for facilitation of partnership development, information exchange, promotion of effective safe navigation, and mitigation of impacts from catastrophic and chronic natural hazards.

International Pacific Research Center (IPRC) *\$2 million*

These funds will support the University of Hawaii's International Pacific Research Center (IPRC). Funding for IPRC is based upon priority needs developed in consultation with NOAA, and is consistent with the goals of the climate change program and the National Climatic Data Center set by NOAA leadership. As one of the only institutions conducting systematic and reliable climatographic research over the entire Pacific region, the data produced by IPRC will be indispensable in understanding climate change.

Hawaii Coral Reef Initiative *\$1.5 million*

These funds will continue the University's monitoring and research activities that focus primarily on alien species, water quality, population structure, and recruitment of keystone species in the main Hawaiian Islands. The funds will also continue public education and awareness activities that strengthen capacity to better manage the main Hawaiian Islands' coral reef ecosystems.

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB)/

Northern Hawaiian Islands Research Collaboration *\$1.5 million*

In May, 2003, over 100 scientists and resource managers convened in Honolulu to identify and prioritize research activities needed to support science-based ecosystem management in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI). As a means of achieving these priority research needs critical for sanctuary designation and management, the National Marine Sanctuary Program is currently in discussions with the Hawaii Institute for Marine Biology (HIMB) to formalize a long-term partnership that will mutually benefit both programs. The goal of the collaboration between the NWHI Reserve and HIMB is to utilize the existing scientific expertise at HIMB to address the research and information needs related to the designation and management of the proposed sanctuary.

Hawaii Seafood Program *\$1.5 million*

The purpose of the Hawaii Seafood Program is to help the Hawaii fishing and

seafood industry become more competitive in the U.S. seafood market and sustain itself by pro-actively addressing current and emerging concerns about the sustainability of the fishery and the safety of its seafood products.

B-WET Hawaii

\$1.5 million

The increase of \$1.0 million above FY 2004 appropriated funding for the second year of this competitive grant program will ensure the continued growth and success of implementing environmental education projects in the Hawaiian Islands. In FY 2004, it is anticipated that B-WET Hawaii will provide between 10 and 15 awards, and due to outreach efforts, a considerable growth in applicants is anticipated in FY 2005.

Hawaii Monk Seals

\$825,000

These funds will be used to support continuing efforts to monitor the monk seal population, conduct further biological and ecological assessments, and to identify and mitigate factors that are impeding the recovery of the species.

Hawaii Fishery Development Program (HFDP)

\$750,000

The goal of the HFDP is to generate new information, technologies, and products to assist both fishery management and marine finfish aquaculture development in Hawaii and throughout the United States.

***Hawaii Community Development Program
and Fisheries Demonstration Project***

\$500,000

The Hawaiian Community Development Program and Fishery Demonstration Project will fund a competitive grant program to support community-oriented fishery projects.

Hawaii Stock Enhancement Program

\$500,000

This is one of two aquaculture programs administered by the Oceanic Institute (OI) and funded through the Department of Commerce. This program focuses on the enhancement of the depleted Hawaiian fish stocks, primarily mullet and moi. Through this program, OI works with the State of Hawaii to release new stock into the ocean to replenish dwindling fish populations.

Tropical Ornamental Fish Program

\$500,000

These funds will continue the public-private partnership to develop aquaculture capabilities for tropical fish, with the goal of commercialization and economic sustainability.

Hawaii Marine Invasives Program

\$250,000

The Hawaii Marine Invasive Species program seeks to rehabilitate coral reefs

around the main Hawaiian islands under siege from invasive alien algae species by removing the algae, controlling grow-back with "grazing" species of indigenous marine life, and allowing native algae to return to the reef ecosystem.

National Weather Service Buoy Upgrade **\$250,000**

These funds will greatly improve the data forecasters input into their models to predict the track of tropical cyclones developing in the area during the hurricane season, as well as improve surf forecasts and surf advisories.

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) **\$200,000**

These funds will be used to add three new NWR transmitters/receivers to the existing six stations, which will add coverage to current populous areas that have not had adequate reception due to the mountainous terrain. Currently, only 60 percent of Hawaii's population has adequate NWR coverage, versus the U.S. Mainland with approximately 95 percent coverage.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

East-West Center **\$19.5 million**

The East-West Center is an important instrument of U.S. engagement in the Asia Pacific region. The Center is at the cutting edge of research on conflicts and conflict resolution in areas of increasing importance to the United States, including Kashmir, Tibet, the southern Philippine Islands, East Timor, and Papua and Aceh in Indonesia. The Center, through its Pacific Islands Development Program, has played a direct and critical role in the search for political reconciliation in Fiji, facilitating talks between the competing leaders and development of new approaches to sensitive ethnic and economic issues.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Emergency Medical Services for Children **\$20.3 million**

The bill would continue funding for a nationwide program created by Senator Inouye two decades ago, when he was concerned that children were being treated like "little adults" when their needs were different. This initiative also includes funding for the Hana Community Health Center.

Hansen's Disease Treatment, Kalaupapa **\$2,033,000**

The initiative provides continuing support, including medical care and treatment, for people suffering from Hansen's disease.

Aging Grants to Native Hawaiian Organizations *\$1.9 million*
The funding would provide services for Hawaii's elderly Native Hawaiian population.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Title III, Strengthening Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions *\$6.5 million*
A total of \$13 million has been approved for the Strengthening Native Hawaiian and Alaska Native Serving Institutions program, which is in its sixth year. The \$13 million will be evenly split between Hawaii and Alaska. Post-secondary educational institutions with large populations of Native Hawaiian and Alaska Native students are eligible to apply for grants under the program. The University of Hawaii systems, as well as Chaminade University, are recipients.

Bishop Museum

*Education Through Cultural
and Historical Organizations (ECHO)* *\$2 million*
Native American Museums Program *\$1 million*

These funds would support the Bishop Museum's cultural and educational programs involving community partners throughout Hawaii, as well as internships and exchanges between Alaska and Peabody Essex in Massachusetts. The \$2 million earmark is part of a proposed \$10 million appropriation for ECHO that also supports programs at museums in Alaska and Massachusetts. The \$1 million allocation is from the Institute of Museum and Library Services' new Native American Museums Program, and would fund Native Hawaiian initiatives.

Native Hawaiian Vocational Education *\$3 million*
This program supports vocational education in the State of Hawaii by preparing Native Hawaiians to successfully enter, compete, and advance in the ever-changing technological workplace. Native Hawaiians can secure access to vocational education through outreach, recruitment, support, retention, and employment placement services.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

Library Services to Native Hawaiians

\$450,000

This initiative would continue to channel federal funds to Alu Like, Inc., which runs an employment and training program, to train Native Hawaiians as librarians and in computer science.

Traditional Healers

At Senator Inouye's request, language was included to recognize that Native Hawaiian traditional healers are aging, and that there should be efforts to preserve and document Native Hawaiian traditional cultural healing practices.